GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE SYSTEM



Mayor's Order 2004-119 July 19, 2004

SUBJECT:

Establishment of the Office of Victim Services

ORIGINATING AGENCY: Office of the Mayor

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the District of Columbia pursuant to sections 422(2), 422(6), and 422(11) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act of 1973, as amended, Pub. L. No. 93-198, 87 Stat. 790; D.C. Official Code §§ 1-204.22(2), (6), and (11) (2001), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. ESTABLISHMENT

There is hereby created an office to be known as the Office of Victim Services ("the Office") in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (the "Deputy Mayor").

2. PURPOSE

The Office shall be responsible for supporting and coordinating the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of care for crime victims within the District of Columbia. The Office will also focus on the planning for, and the administration and monitoring of, all victim-service related federal funds, including the Crime Victim Assistance Fund, Victims of Crime Act Grant Programs, Office on Violence Against Women Grant Programs, and any grant program created for the purpose of serving the crime victim community.

3. FUNCTIONS

The Office, by coordinating functions to be carried out by program agencies, shall:

- a. Represent the Administration on issues concerning victims of crime;
- b. Advocate on behalf of victims of crime on issues related to services, systems response, legislation, and resource allocations at all levels of the government and the community;
- c. Review, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the District's response to victims, outreach and education on victims' issues, capacity building for victims' services, training for responders and any legislation that affects victims of crime;

- d. Produce an annual report that provides an update on the use of crime victims' funds and recommendations concerning goals, priorities and strategies for improvement of services to victims;
- e. Assist with the development of legislation, policies, plans, programs, and budgets to ensure consistent and effective systems response to victims;
- f. Provide technical assistance;
- g. Identify new sources of funding and provide assistance to District agencies and community programs in obtaining such funds;
- h. Promote outreach and education efforts concerning crime issues and resources available to assist victims;
- i. Work in partnership with community leaders, educators, religious leaders, social service agencies, businesses, and the public to identify and address issues facing victims of crime;
- j. Facilitate the participation of citizens, community organizations and district agencies in planning activities; and
- k. Perform other duties as assigned.

4. ORGANIZATION

The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall report to the Deputy Mayor. The Director is hereby authorized to exercise the Mayor's authority to apply for and to accept grant funding under section 417 of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2004, approved January 23, 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and any substantially identical successor law. To the extent required by applicable law, the Office (i) will advise the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of applications for grant funds and their distribution and (ii) will seek approval from the Council of the District of Columbia in applying for and distributing grant funds. The Director shall coordinate, hire, and supervise all staff of the Office as needed to complete the mission, subject to the concurrence of the Deputy Mayor.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall become effective immediately and shall supersede Mayor's Order 2004-97, dated June 4, 2004, to the extent of any inconsistency.

ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS

MAYOR

ATTEST:

SHERRYL**HØ**BBS NEWMAN

SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA